GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5775
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
OPIUM CULTIVAION
SRICHAND KRIPALANI

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for promoting opium cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the provisions for providing relief to the opium growers in the case of natural calamity?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a)&(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government for promoting opium cultivation in the country:-

(i) The cultivation of opium for scientific and medicinal purposes in the notified tracts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is regulated by he Central Bureau of Narcotics under licence.

(ii) Research project for development of opium poppy variety with higher alkaloid content has been commissioner by the Government.

(iii) The Government provides remunerative prices for the procurement of opium from licensed opium cultivators.

(iv) A scheme for upgrading and enhancing the production facilities at the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works, Neemuch and Ghazipur is under implementation.

(v) Efforts are made to increase the sale/export of opium in the international market in order to sustain licensed opium cultivation.

(c) If the opium crop of a cultivator is damaged due to any disease or natural calamity, he can get the damaged unlanced crop uprooted, fully or partially, under departmental supervision. In case of full uprooting, the cultivator becomes automatically eligible for licence in the next year, if he is otherwise eligible. In case of partial uprooting, the cultivator is required to tender opium grown over the remaining area and also fulfil Minimum Qualifying Yield (MQY) for the area.Such cultivators would be eligible for licence in the subsequent year provided they satisfy the conditions of MQY.